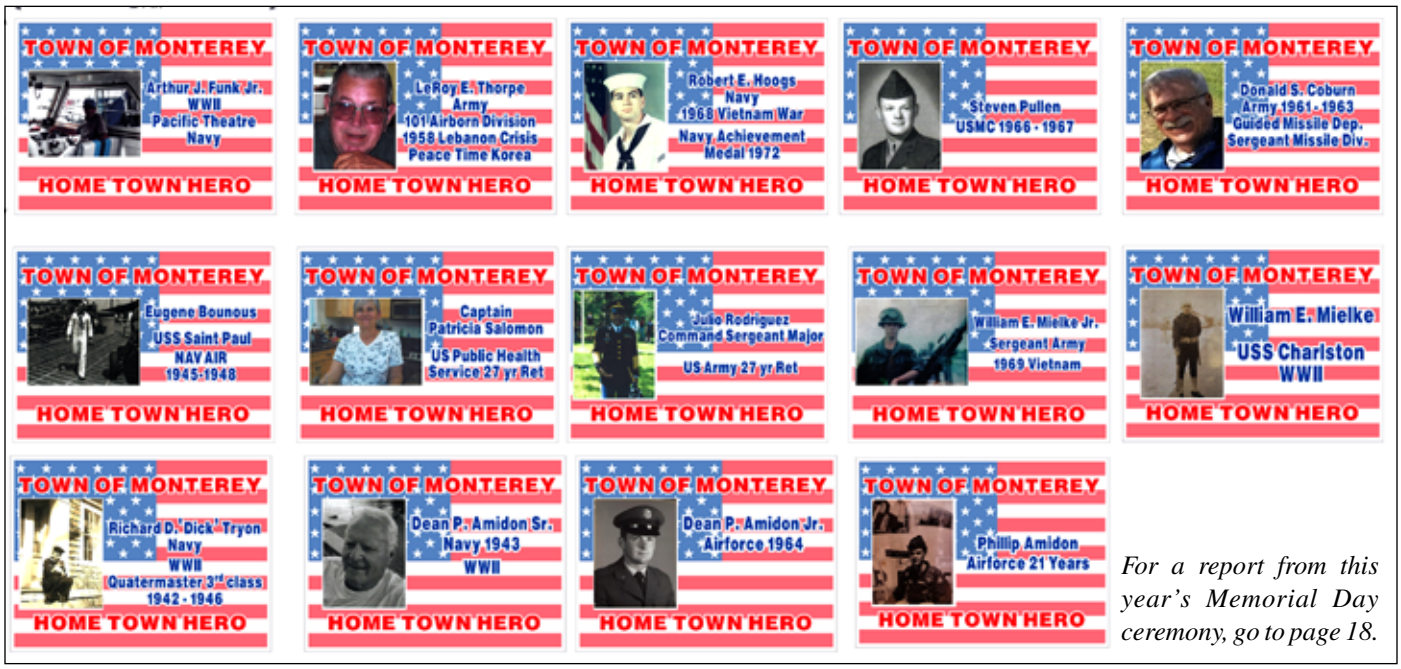
MONTEREY NEWS

July 2021
Est. 1970 Vol. LI · Number 7

Pick up at: the library (in and outside), outside town hall, transfer station, Bracken Brae farmstand



For a report from this year's Memorial Day ceremony, go to page 18.

Summer Events Information:

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FLG annual meeting page 11

But one time in a swoon
I climbed up to the moon
behind a bobbing braid
and barely felt afraid.

Brief Freedom page 17

It was caterpillar droppings, a veritable splats storm of them.

Gypsy Moths page 24

He said, "There is probably a bylaw about where to park your horse."

Town Meeting Resumed page 12-14

Paul is initiating "Splash for Sloan 80" to raise money for Prostate Cancer Research.

Splash for Sloan page 21

Her favorite word was *serendipity*; she believed that things happen for a reason, and for Jean they often did.

Jean Germain page 11

In total, since 2006 we have gone from being open eleven hours a week to 2021 with 31.5 hours a week. Thanks to the town for supporting our expansion!

Library New Hours page 5

But criticism is not really action. It has become a strange sort of social glue that feeds the most negative of human emotions without accomplishing any sort of real change.

A Plea for Involvement page 15

I asked a town elder, "Why aren't there *stop* signs on every street? He said, "People know that they should stop."

Small Towns and Stop Signs page 16

"Don't tread on me" would have gotten nowhere flying solo.

Rainbow page 22

Aging is great—consider the alternative!

Council on Aging page 6

Monterey Community Center

The MCC has been reopening gradually and now, with the Governor's lessening of Covid restrictions as of June 15, we are almost full steam ahead for July. Folks are invited to take part in community center programs under the tent, inside, and on Zoom. If you have not been vaccinated, please wear a mask and continue social distancing. If you have been vaccinated against Covid, the choice of whether or not to wear a mask is yours to make. We are expecting people to follow the honor system.

Under the Tent: In June, we welcomed Maggie Barkin under the tent with "What's Happening?" conversations every Monday afternoon. Maggie has hosted rousing conversations and guest speakers, including poetry readings with Don Barkin, a racial justice discussion, and more. If you have an interest in discussing local or global happenings, wander over to the tent any Monday at 4 p.m. and join in. Special guests: On July 5, members of the Monterey Native Plants Working Group will be talking about the biodiversity box and other projects, including the Monterey Native Plants Garden tour, sharing their plans and garden tour information. (See their article on page 8.) On July 12, Ann Gallo and Rachel Urquhart will discuss their production of *3*.

Marya Makuc

Card making: Nadia Makuc, back right, her aunt Marta Starczewski on the left, and then the girls are Genna Free, Nadia's cousin Bernadette Starczewski, and Mia Free.

June Events

Card Making: On June 12, Vicki MacDonald taught seventeen of us how to make greeting cards. We made cards for all occasions using her materials and templates with the option of creating our own designs. Bernadette Starczewska said, "The card making was so much fun! The cards turned out beautiful, each one a unique pattern of flowers, stamps, and everything in between. I'm super glad I went with my friends!"

Bones and Posture: We had Jill Esterson, physical therapist, under the tent teaching about bone health in her "Length and Strength" talk. Jill has a wealth of knowledge, having worked with the New York Ballet for years and as a physical therapist locally, also for many years.

Jill taught us that there are things we can do to improve our bone health. We learned that bones aren't hard and impermeable like we picture them from the models we grew up with on TV and in the doctor's office. They are living and growing, breaking down old cells and forming new ones all the time. Blood goes in and out. This was a huge ray of hope in itself. We can make a positive difference even if we receive a diagnosis of osteopenia or osteoporosis from the doctor.

Keeping our bones well is not just about bone density, but also bone strength. We learned a lot about the benefits of walking and of weight lifting, even with small weights. It's not about upping the reps, but upping the weight within your comfort zone.

Posture, posture, posture. We learned that a half-used paper towel roll wedged vertically between your shoulder blades and the chair back, makes you sit up straight. When you are sitting while driving, in your office, etc., try it and see your shoulders go back and down until you are not slouching.

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Nadia Makuc

Cards from Vicki MacDonald's workshop.

Any time you catch yourself slouching, think about getting long and tall. When you lengthen and strengthen you create more room to breathe and you are more likely to sit and stand tall.

Standing is better than sitting. Typing, Zooming, or reading from an ergonomically incorrect angle is not good for your spine health.

New in June: Tai Chi under the tent with David Crowe. David is not taking new folks for July because the class is filled up, but if you want to be on a waitlist for August and you have already done Tai Chi, please call or email the MCC. There may be openings in August due to vacations.

Resumed in June: Ping pong, mahjong, bridge, and pitch. Chair yoga is now meeting inside and outside, depending on the weather.

July Events

Multimedia presentation: The Pops Peterson "Making of a Protest Artist" multimedia event will be on Sunday, July 11, at 3 p.m., inside the Monterey Library. See the article on page 7 to learn more about his talk. Preregistration is required, through MCC.

Silk Painting: Jilly Lederman invites you to "Learn the Basics of Silk Painting" on Thursday, July 22, at 1 p.m., under the tent. In this fun introductory class, you will create two small silk paintings using stretched silk, Dye-Na-Flow colors, and an optional wax resist. Ages eight and up, $12 per person. Preregistration is required—there will be a maximum of ten people.

Tie Dye: Jilly returns on Thursday, July 29, at 1 p.m., under the tent. Learn several different pattern options for this foolproof and fun wearable art. (Caution: Wear old clothes!) Be sure to provide your shirt size when you register: (Kids S, M, or L, Adult S, M, L,or XL). The cost is $15 per person for one shirt, $20 if you want to make two. Preregistration is required—there will be a maximum of fifteen.

Genealogy: If you have ever wondered about your family history, you can start to explore it with a three-part program on genealogy sponsored by the Friends. The series will be presented on Zoom on Tuesdays, July 27, August 3, and August 10, at 7 p.m., by Bryna O'Sullivan, proprietor of Charter Oak Genealogy. Bryna has been enthralled by genealogy since she was in elementary school and discovered that her family was descended from Mayflower passengers. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in history and French literature from Tufts University, a Master of Arts in history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Master of Arts in theology from Holy Apostles College and Seminary. She has also completed the Boston University Certificate in Genealogical Research, the National Institute for Genealogical Studies Professional Learning Certificate in Genealogical Studies, the ProGen Study Group, and the DAR's Genealogical Education Program.

Bryna will guide us through the use of the "Family Search" program, then show us how to use the US Census to find family information, and finally, teach us how to search through vital statistics to track down those elusive ancestors. She is a gifted presenter and makes the task of searching through hundreds of years of records look easy and entirely doable.

If you are interested in learning how to do some research on your family, please register for this free Zoom program (see below). Who knows what secrets you may discover about your ancestors?

Last but not least, does anyone want to join in for learning mahjong, or playing Scrabble? We have a mahjong teacher volunteering, and there is someone looking for Scrabble partners.

Please call or email sometime soon to join in the summer fun and learning at the MCC. (413) 528-3600, or email calendar@ccmonterey.org.

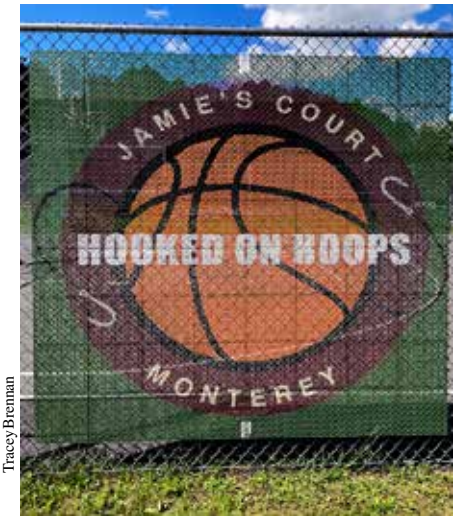
—Mary Makuc and Nancy Kleban

Monterey Parks Commission
Summer is Here

It's time to enjoy all the summer activities here in Monterey.

Tracey Brennan

Our town beach is set up and ready to go. The lifeguards will begin their duties on Saturday, June 26. Many thanks to Mark Makuc for the annual installation of rafts and buoys in the swim area. We are working to delineate more clearly the boat launch area from the swim area. There is a temporary fence marking the launch at present. Look for fencing construction and renovation around the whole beach perimeter in the coming weeks. We are expecting new sand too. Enjoy the beach, and please observe the signs posted there. Please do not walk your dogs on the beach sand, grass, or boat launch. We cannot offer swimming lessons this year, due to lack of available personnel from Berkshire South. Be sure to sign up for yoga on the beach later this summer.



Tracey Brennan

The baseball field and the basketball court are groomed and spruced up for the new season. They are already in full use by their devoted players.

The kayak racks are very popular, and we are thinking about the possibility of installing more racks in the future. No more are available for this year. The police are aware of the recent, troubling thefts from the racks. Please secure your vessels very well.

Check the town website for parks commission updates (montereyma.gov/parks-commission) as summer progresses. Have fun!

—Tracey Brennan
Monterey Parks Commission

Friends of the Monterey Library
July 31 Book Sale

The Friends of the Monterey Library invite you to our next meeting, Saturday, July 10, at 11:30 a.m., at the library. We will be holding our meeting in person for the first time in our newly renovated space. Please join your fellow Monterey Library enthusiasts as we discuss the status of the library renovation, deck furnishings, book sale details, summer programming, etc. Bring your ideas.

Library Book Sale

The Monterey Library book sale is back! The book sale will be held on Saturday, July 31, from 9 a.m. to noon. Masks are required (check library website for updates). Thousands of books, CDs, and DVDs will be available both indoors and outdoors. Also check out Myrna's plant sale to benefit the library. (See page 7).

We need book sale volunteers. Indulge your inner bookseller by volunteering to help—or volunteer just because you love our library.

If you aren't already a library Friend, email us at montereylibraryfriends@gmail.com to get on our Friends email list to receive book sale updates. A volunteer is a Friend indeed.

Finally, representatives from the Friends of the Library executive committee will be available on Saturday, July 3, from 10 a.m. to noon in front of the library to answer questions and chat. Stop by and tell us about your favorite read of 2020.

—Colleen Johnson
Friends of the Monterey Library

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Monterey Library Notes

New Expanded Schedule

Starting July 1 we will be adding more open hours for the public. We will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. so all our morning hours will be the same. We've also added a half hour to Wednesday afternoon, so we'll close for lunch at 1p.m. and reopen from 1:30 to 5. Thursday and Friday evenings will remain 4 to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Monday evenings will also stay the same, from 7 to 9 p.m. We are not able to continue all the hours we added to get through the Covid winter, so unfortunately we will not be continuing the Friday morning shift. Hopefully making all the mornings consistent will be helpful to everyone. In total, since 2006 we have gone from being open eleven hours a week to 2021 with 31.5 hours a week. Thanks to the town for supporting our expansion!

Summer Reading

Our summer reading program has begun. Details are available at the library, but young readers and those children who are read to are able to earn pancakes at the Roadside Store! We're happy to see Roadside pancakes coming off the griddle again, and time spent reading will earn a memorable breakfast reward for those young readers. Come in and sign up for the program and start earning some pancakes. Thanks to Roadside for sponsoring this program.

Summer Events

Our summer performers, graciously funded by the Monterey Cultural Council, will be here in person. Performances will be outdoors at the library, or in the case of inclement weather, at the big tent next to the community center. All performances are at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings. We've had a change since the last *Monterey News*, but it was all about making sure the Library Book Sale could happen as it has for decades. Here's the lineup on Saturdays:

July 3: Talewise presents *Aliens: Escape from Earth*. Buckle up for an action-packed, out-of-this-world story brought to life by amazing science demonstrations! During a midnight meteor shower, something mysterious falls from the sky—but it's not a shooting star. Two curious kids venture into the desert to investigate… and find themselves mixed up with visitors from another planet! Pursued by a zany space scientist, they must rescue the aliens and get them back to their spaceship before it's too late!

July 10: Ed the Wizard will work with balloons and amaze you with what he can create.

July 17: Jeff Boyer as the Bubble Man will present one of the most popular programs ever at the library—another episode of "Bubble Trouble!" Kids of all ages will be amazed at what can be done with bubbles.

July 24: Davis Bates will present "Tales & Tails!" A family participatory reading celebration.

July 31: The book sale! Don't miss it. After missing a couple of years between construction and Covid, we are back with our usual assortment of something for everyone.

August 7: Tom Seiling will present "A Tromp through the Swamp!" Don't miss out on the whole audience singing and moving to children's favorites.

August 14: MaryJo Maichack will present "Animals! Animals!" Folktales, tunes, and interactive fun!

All these performers will have links on the calendar on the library website (see below). Some of these performers did their best to perform on the web last year, but we all know that audience participation doesn't work well with that. So come and enjoy being part of a participatory live event. Again, all these programs are made possible by the Monterey Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which was extremely generous this year as we open up, and the Friends of the Library put much of their financial assistance to finishing touches on the building project.

—Mark Makuc, Library Director, MontereyMassLibrary.org

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Cut this schedule out and post it for the kids and grandkids.

MONTEREY LIBRARY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Saturdays at 10:30 am

Saturday, July 3
Aliens: Escape from Earth with Telewise

Saturday, July 10
Balloons with Ed the Wizard

Saturday, July 17
Jeff Boyer as the Bubble Man

Saturday, July 24
Storyteller Davis Bates

Saturday, July 31
Book Sale

Saturday, August 7
Musician Tom Sieling

Saturday, August 14
Storyteller MaryJo Maichack

Mass Cultural Council

The Monterey Library
452 Main Road Monterey, MA 01245 (413) 528-3795
www.montereymalibrary.org

Council on Aging

There are changes afoot with the Council on Aging—we are beginning to receive input from the outreach workers' visits with seniors. I'm not sure we can do anything about our name—Council on Aging—many of our seniors say that doesn't fit their view of themselves. The CoA is supposed to make it easier for folks to gather and socialize, not concentrate on the "aging" part. Aging is great—consider the alternative!

We are just coming out of the pandemic when we couldn't plan any trips, luncheons, museum visits, or gatherings. We did concentrate on contacting seniors, enabling vaccination appointments, increasing food availability, but now we can actually get together again. So we are having an open house, coffee, and munchies, on Thursday, July 15, at 10 a.m., at the Monterey Community Center to discuss how we can involve more seniors in planning fun activities. Everyone is welcome.

Activities we have planned include the Pittsfield Suns baseball game and picnic at Waconah Park on Sunday, July 25, starting at 4:30 p.m. Suggested donation is $5 per person. Call (413) 528-1443, ext. 247, for reservations and drop off a check at town hall. This is an intergenerational activity; bring the kids and grandkids.

We would like to remind everyone that there are yellow safety vests available at town hall. Monterey has many walkers, especially in the summer: please wear a vest.

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse, Nancy Slattery, will be at the Monterey Community Center on Thursday, July 8, from 2 to 3 p.m. She can check your blood pressure, oxygenation, medications, and do a general wellness assessment. No appointment is necessary.

Transportation for those over sixty and the disabled of any age for medical appointments or shopping in Great Barrington is available through the Great Barrington Council on Aging, which we support. Please call 528-1881, give forty-eight hours' notice; round trip from your home to town is $10, $15 to Pittsfield when available.

Beverly Dunn, our foot nurse, will make home visits for foot care; $10 of her fee is covered by the CoA. Just call her cell phone to make an appointment, (413) 446-2469.

Bridge and Pitch are going strong at the Monterey Community Center on Tuesdays at 1 p.m., and bridge will have a second day on Fridays at 1 p.m., starting on July 9. Call Kyle Pierce for bridge, 528-9213, Norma Champigny for pitch, 528-0294.

Tai Chi with David Crowe is continuing through July and August on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. under the tent at the Monterey Community Center. The class is full for July, but sign up for August.

Everyone, come to our Open House on July 15.

—Kyle Pierce
Chair, Council on Aging

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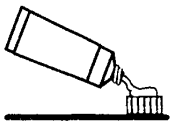


528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

The Plant Sale is Back

Don't forget to visit the plant sale taking place at Monterey Library during the book sale on Saturday, July 31, from 9 a.m. to noon. Once again, Clark's Nursery on Route 102 in Lee will be donating dozens upon dozens of annuals. We hope to have some native perennials available as well.

All proceeds will go to benefit the library's programs.

Bags will be provided to help you carry out your new plant purchases.

—Myrna Rosen

Pops Peterson Presentation

On Sunday, July 11, at 3 p.m., in the Monterey Library, come see a multimedia presentation, "The Making of a Protest Artist," by Pops Peterson.

"Protest Artist" is a label often pinned to outspoken artists through the decades. But what constitutes protest art? And what conditions drive these artists to speak truth to power through their paintings, novels, dances, and songs? Pops Peterson explores these questions in this riveting multimedia presentation, "The Making of a Protest Artist."

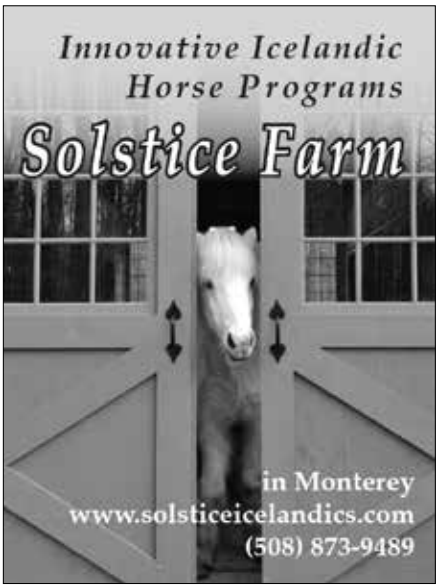
Nationally known for his award-winning painting series, "Reinventing Rockwell," Pops is a Berkshire artist who has been celebrated in such media outlets as CBS Sunday Morning, *The Boston Globe* and *The New York Times*. He is also the artist-in-residence of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. His collection was recently exhibited in the Norman Rockwell museum for nine months.

This cavalcade of historic imagery, music, and video will center on those artists whose artwork itself was devoted to making political change and advancing civil rights, from Picasso to James Baldwin and a host of others. Peterson will examine the reasons why these artists were prompted to devote their work to activism and, in the second part of his presentation, will discuss his own personal journey from landscape and portrait painting to activist art. There will be a goodwill offering for the Pops Peterson Foundation, to afford art lessons for disadvantaged youth. This program is sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council and the Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House.

To preview some of his work, go to PopsPeterson.com.

Please email calendar@ccmonterey.org or leave a message at (413) 528-3600 to register.

—Mary Makuc



44th Steak Roast

Order Online, Eat There

Greeting from the Monterey Fire Company. The forty-fourth annual steak roast will be held in person on Saturday, July 31. Whether this be your first or forty-fourth steak roast, we do hope you will join us.

If you are new to Monterey, then welcome! The Monterey Fire Company Steak Roast was started as the primary fundraiser to pay the mortgage on the fire station. Over the years it has evolved from a rocking all-night party and main fundraiser to the consummate affordable family community summer picnic of Monterey. Enjoy an evening of dinner and music with friends and neighbors while your firefighters cook for you. Steaks or shrimp and veggie kabobs are cooked over hardwood fires and served with a baked potato, corn on the cob, and a garden salad, with cake and ice cream for dessert. Hamburgers and hot dogs are available à la carte. Beer and wine are available.

We have kept some of the changes we made for last year's take-out-only steak roast. The main ones are that tickets are available only at our website: montereyfire.org, and we will be serving shrimp kabobs instead of swordfish. If you have difficulty with purchasing tickets online, call us at (413) 528-3136, email us at montereyfireco@gmail.com, or stop by the fire station—you won't go hungry.

We will be serving steak and shrimp kabob dinner from 4 to 7 p.m., to the music of the Peter Poirier blues band. Ticket sales are online only at montereyfire.org. When you purchase tickets you will choose a serving time. Dining will be in person at the Monterey Fire Company pavilion (just behind the Monterey Fire Station). We will have the tables spread out much more than in the past. As in the past, uncooked dinners will be available from noon until 4 p.m. We will also serve take-out meals upon request from 4 to 7 p.m.

We hope you will join us.

—Del Martin
Captain, Monterey Fire Company

Having a Good Day

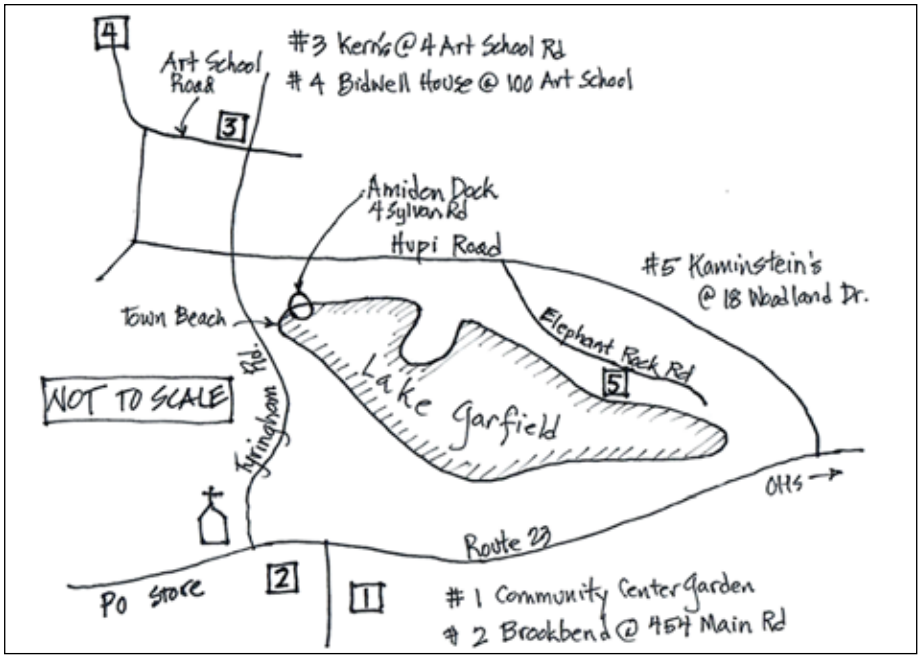
- Having a mask-free, worry-free 4th of July party with lots of hugs, finally!

Native Plants in Monterey
Garden Tour, July 17

A self-guided tour of five local native plant gardens—with a possible boat shuttle to the lakeside destination—will showcase different approaches to re-integrating plants into their native Berkshire environment in ways that are both beautiful and functional. The tour is sponsored by the Monterey Native Plants Working Group, which aims to build awareness of plants that evolved in this specific locale and of their critical roles in supporting a host of pollinators—birds, butterflies, and bees. Native plants also contribute in multiple ways to the health of the entire local community of living things.

The centerpiece of this effort is a raised bed, a "biodiversity box," that has been installed in the corner plot at the community garden—one of five stops on the Monterey Native Plants Garden Tour, scheduled for Saturday, July 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

At the other four locations of the tour, gardeners will be on site to field questions and talk about the considerations that went into their creations. Look for colorful pinwheel markers to identify each stop on the tour. At the three residential gardens, a sign-in sheet and donation container will be available. A contribution of $10 for the day is suggested. Proceeds will go toward establishing more native plants on town properties. Following the tour we will be emailing a list of native plants used as well as additional resources to support pollinators and wildlife diversity to those who sign up.



Garden Stops

(Feel free to visit in any order. The numbers are keyed to the map above.)

#1-Monterey Community Center, pollinator garden (468 Main Road). The "biodiversity box" in the southwestern plot is now home to sixty-four plug-sized perennials that were propagated at Helia Native Plants Nursery and picked up by volunteers on a weekly basis, as part of a Helia's Community Supported Agriculture offering. The plants are labeled, and additional information about them is available in a folder hanging near the sign.

#2- Brookbend Condominium (454 Main Street). Just down the hill from the community center, next to the library, Deborah Slater has recently installed mostly native beds along the northeastern corner of the building that once served as an inn in the center of town. Devan Arnold, owner of Sassafras Land Care, will be on hand to introduce the plants and the thinking that informed his design.

#3- The Kern's (4 Art School Road) Julie and Frank Kern will welcome visitors to their property, explaining how they used native plants in several settings (pasture, woodlands, pondside) to create a nurturing home for wildlife of many forms.

#4- Bidwell House Museum native and pollinator gardens (100 Art School Road). In 2018 the museum received a grant from the Lenox Garden Club to create a native garden in front of the house around the new accessible entrance. Pam Parkins, the head gardener at Bidwell, will show people around the native bed and the nearby pollinator garden, which incorporates many native species as well. Beginning at 1 p.m., the museum will also be hosting artisans demonstrating traditional crafts, including blacksmithing and spinning, in the first of its "Maker Day" series. These demonstrations will take place on the property, free of charge, so feel free to enjoy the demos as well as the gardens. (See page 10.)

#5- Kaminsteins' lakeside meadow (18 Woodland Drive, on the northeast side of Lake Garfield). Over a period of several years, Bridghe McCracken of Helia Native Nursery helped Judy and Bruce Kaminstein create a wild meadow >

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June at the Knox Gallery

Geoffrey Young's *Habitat: Selections of Drawings and Paintings from 1970 until Easter 2021*, has received an enthusiastic response from our community. If you haven't seen it yet, please come and enjoy his colorful geometrics until July 10.

A large crowd enjoyed a gorgeous afternoon in the library's backyard to hear Young's reading last month. The artist shared selections of short poems and sonnets from his recently printed volume, *Habit*, which he adds to his oeuvre of twenty short books of prose, poetry, and visual art that are currently in print. Thank you to all our attendees and supporters, to Young, and to Phil Knoll and Sue Muskat Knoll who curated the exhibition and organized the event. Please see last month's *Monterey New*s for more information on the artist and the exhibit.

Nurturing Nature, a retrospective of Maureen Banner's paintings, opens July 15. Banner is an accomplished potter, sculptor, jeweler, and business person. Additionally, she is also well known in the community as a masterful gardener. Her profile as a painter is less well known, although she has exhibited paintings in various group exhibits at the Knox Gallery.

The artist's creative talents cross-pollinate and feed each other so much that it can be difficult to distinguish where one starts and the next stops. In no instance is this more obvious than in this collection of her paintings from nature, which combine her garden, the local environment, and her interpretations of her surroundings. While her viewing audience easily observes and admires her accomplishments she generally downplays her expertise, possibly because of her facility with all the disciplines she has pursued.

Banner's husband, Michael Banner, relays that this exhibit represents her "life's work." I hope that is not true, as I believe she has many more paintings, drawings, gardens, silver pieces, and surprises in store for us.

All Knox Gallery events are admission free. Geoffrey Young's reading was sponsored by the Massachusetts and Monterey Cultural Councils. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours (see back page of this issue). Please visit the library website for current Covid restrictions, such as admission scheduling. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates

Monterey has a new public outdoor event space behind the library. Above, Geoff Young did a reading to a large audience with the Konkapot River in the background.

Go to Florida Before This Happens*, Maureen Banner, oil on board.*

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of native species that also absorbs extra nutrients before they make their way into Lake Garfield. Because of the long and winding road to the Kaminsteins' (reached by Elephant Rock Road) and limited parking, consider taking the boat shuttle. Or paddle over. (There is very limited parking for motorboats.) Be advised—it's about a thirty-minute paddle to their dock, which will be brightly marked. Shuttles will leave approximately every half hour from Myrna Rosen's dock at 20 Point Road (off Sylvan Road). If you're anticipating a boat ride, please call Myrna Rosen (917) 446-9904 to make arrangements.

We hope you enjoy this taste of diverse landscapes native plantings can create.

—Janet Jensen

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Bidwell House Museum
We're Back!

It is a time of renewal as everyone emerges out of the fog of the Covid pandemic and into the warmth and sun of a beautiful Berkshire summer. The Bidwell House Museum is so excited to get back to in-person events and to finally re-open the house for guided tours in July. We have two history talks and a guided walk this month in addition to the "Outside the House Tour," glorious gardens, and four-and-a-half miles of trails.

Heather Kowalski

History Talks

Saturday, July 10, at 10 a.m., we will host Yale University Professor Emeritus John Demos at the museum for his talk, *In the Shadow of the Founders: Greatest Generations in American History*. At several strategic points in the American past, events have cast a particular generational cohort in a special, outsize role. Demos will discuss how their lives and deeds have given a distinctive shape to our history, a recurrent and transformative charge of renewal.

Saturday, July 17, at 10 a.m., Princeton History Professor Wendy Warren will give a talk titled *Prisons in Colonial America*. Warren will explain the long history of prisons in North America, and examine what has not changed between the earliest prisons and today.

Both of these talks will be held at the Bidwell House Museum for a limited in-person audience and also streamed via Zoom. In-person tickets are $15, Zoom tickets for Members are free and Zoom tickets for non-members are $10. All attendees must register on the Museum's website, bidwellhousemuseum.org/events.

Bidwell House Tours

The museum is very happy to announce that July 17 is also our first day of in-house tours for the 2021 season. If you have spent time walking the trails and wondered what the house looks like on the inside, you are now in luck. Our tour times have changed a bit since we were last open in 2019 and all tours are now by appointment only. Tours can be booked for the following days and times: Monday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., or 3 p.m. We ask that tours be booked twenty-four hours in advance so that we have a docent available. They can be booked by calling (413) 528-6888, or by emailing the museum at bidwellhm2@gmail.com.

Also on July 17, as part of our opening celebration, we will be hosting some local artisans on the property from 1 to 4 p.m. Del Martin will demonstrate blacksmithing, Dennis Picard will demonstrate shoe making, and the Berkshire Hills and Dales spinning guild will show you how to spin wool. These demonstrations will be ongoing throughout the afternoon and as always, access to the grounds is free of charge. If you don't have a tour of the house booked, you can still stop by to see the artisan demos, walk the "Outside the House Tour," have a picnic lunch on our new picnic tables, view the gardens, and hike the trails. There is so much to do at the Bidwell House Museum.

On Saturday, July 24, at 10 a.m., join Rob Hoogs for a guided walk along the Bidwell House Museum's Native American Interpretive Trail. Beginning in the carriage barn at the main house, this tour will take you past nine stops on the property where you will learn about the history of the Mohicans in this area along with their agricultural practices, woodland management, land use, and more. This walk will take two to three hours, so wear proper shoes for walking, and bring water and a snack. Dress for the weather, but if a heavy downpour or thunderstorm is predicted, the walk may be postponed. The walk is limited to fifteen people, and attendees must register in advance through the museum website at bidwellhousemuseum.org/event.

The museum is located at 100 Art School Road and the museum grounds—192 acres of woods, fields, historic stone walls, trails, and picnic sites—are open every day free of charge. The program of events can also be found on the museum's website.

—Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

Monterey is Turning 175

Monterey was founded in 1847, which means that next year it will be 175 years old. Although I was not alive for its last big birthday, I've seen the book, heard stories of the dance, and looked at pictures of the parade. On this special anniversary, I would like to again honor our beautiful town. Considering celebrations for such occasions take a while to plan, this summer I'm looking to form an enthusiastic group of volunteers who would like to organize the commemoration.

If you are interested in helping out or have ideas of what to do, please email me at montereyis175@gmail.com, or call Nadia at (413) 854-3124. The first meeting will be on Saturday, July 10, at 1:30 p.m., at the Monterey Community Center, and all are welcome to come.

—Nadia Makuc

Notice of Passing
Dale Duryea

Dale Duryea, who has been operating the Bracken Brae farm stand on Main Road for several years with his wife Anna, and was formerly Monterey's animal control officer, passed away Thursday, June 24. A celebration of his life will be held on Sunday, July 18, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the farmhouse by the stand.

Friends of Lake Garfield
Notice of Annual Meeting

On Saturday, July 17, beginning at 9:30 a.m., members of the Friends of Lake Garfield will meet for their annual meeting in the firehouse pavilion. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Jerry and Jean at the lake in 1982.

Remembrance
Jean Germain

In the evening of June 16, Jean Germain gently passed away at home in Monterey.

A remarkable woman of many talents, she was a wife, mother, school teacher, photographer, tennis player, environmentalist, social activist, and gourmet cook.

Mrs. Germain had a masters degree in special education and taught "gifted children" in elementary schools. She always said that her students may have learning differences but they were extraordinary kids.

After her husband Jerry passed away, she went on to start a new career as a professional photographer. She loved to share her knowledge of photography, teaching on cruise ships, and at resorts and museum workshops. Her award-winning book, *Jazz From Row Six*, was filled with over one hundred photographs she took of the great big band jazz musicians. (A copy of the book is in the Monterey Library). In addition to her jazz photographs, Jean's impressive body of work includes night scenes, nature, architecture, and the human body.

She loved her home in Monterey on Lake Garfield where she and her husband moved in 1965. It is here where she volunteered for many community projects on the lake and at the library. Jean and Jerry spent years as snowbirds—winters at Pelican Cove in Sarasota, Florida and summers in Monterey.

Her favorite word was *serendipity*; she believed that things happen for a reason, and for Jean they often did.

She will be deeply missed by her children Wendy, Michael, and Deb, her daughter-in-law Elizabeth Germain; her grandchildren Garry, Aaron, Michal, Sean, and Emily; her great grandchildren Gabe, Jacob, Isabella and Benjamin; and her nieces Jacqueline Baumberger and Kathe Trilling.

Here's to her next new adventure.

—Wendy Germain

Editor's Note: Wendy hopes to assemble some stories of her parents' lives in Monterey for the August issue. She asks that folks contact her if they have some to share.

ॐ

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Annual Town Meeting, resumed.
Saturday, June 12

You've gotta love the annual Monterey town meeting. Not only is it a sublime little piece of democracy right out of a Norman Rockwell painting, but there is always a surprise or two in store. Part 2 of the meeting, which was held on June 12, was no exception. Just to recap, Part 1 of the meeting, held on May 1, had twenty articles postponed until June due to a combination of an exceedingly long warrant and frigid temperatures in the firehouse pavilion. This time, while it was a bit damp and chilly to start, the crowd of eighty-nine registered voters could not see their breath so it was a decided improvement from the previous meeting.

Moderator Mark Makuc started off the meeting with the usual acknowledgement of those Monterey citizens who had served the town and had recently passed away. This included Ozzie Dugan, Larry Klein, and Warren Thompson. That done, Makuc created a stir when he announced that he had been asked by one person to step down as moderator due to a perceived conflict of interest. Makuc had signed a number of citizens petitions, as is his right,

Photo by Maureen Banner. Painting not by Norman Rockwell (but he would've were he alive during Covid-19.)

which were going to be discussed that day. Although he had contacted the state ethics board and the moderator's association as well as town counsel, and it was deemed acceptable that he moderate the meeting, he chose to step aside to avoid any perception of impropriety and turned the meeting over to town clerk Terry Walker. She explained the three options available to the citizens. The meeting could be moderated by Walker or by Tom Sawyer, who had volunteered for the job, or by Mark Makuc who could be voted in by the citizens. After a brief discussion about the merits of having Makuc as the moderator or as a participating member of the meeting, an option which has not been available to him for thirty-seven years, a motion was made to have Makuc serve as moderator and was passed with a vote of 52–6. He resumed his customary place at the podium and things were back to normal, which was a good thing as the meeting turned out to be a complicated one.

Article 2–Town Charter

The next item of business was Article 2, a citizens petition which called for the creation of a town charter. Select Board member John Weingold, who had sponsored the petition, started off the discussion saying that a town charter was recommended following a study from the Collins Center for Public Management at UMass, and would make it more efficient and "more of a home-rule type of government." Susan Cooper asked if any towns in Massachusetts with a population under 1,000 had charters and if we had one, how would it change town government. Jon Sylbert replied that the admittedly larger towns of Sheffield, Lee, Lenox, and Becket all had charters and that having one allows towns to have their own operating manual. While no small towns currently have one, he said there is no reason why Monterey could not have a charter. Sylbert gave the example of Monterey having a paid fire department when no other towns were doing so. Steve Weisz, select board chair, countered that the Collins Center makes lots of suggestions, some of which are not really applicable to small towns. He added that over the years the town has had many recommendations from people and groups who have studied Monterey. He said that a charter will not make the town more efficient and questioned why we would create a new board when we already have several boards with vacancies that can't be filled. Don Coburn, former select board member, said there are different types of charters and two very different ways to get a charter, and that the town should spend some time discussing what type might work best for us

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and what types of limits would be placed on it. Mickey Jervas responded saying, "I am going to surprise Don Coburn and say that I agree with him." She suggested forming a committee to explore the options and then present them to the town. Jervas said, "We cannot adopt a law without knowing what it will consist of," and received some light applause in response.

Following this, there were a series of suggestions for amendments to the article, some of which were revisions of the revisions. The discussion got so complicated, it was difficult to keep track of what was being voted on. At one point a motion was made to table the article but the motion failed with a vote of 45-32. On it went, with even more suggestions for adding and deleting words. Jon Sylbert, who had previously made reference to "beating a dead horse" now declared "the horse is not only dead, it is rotting." Peter Murkett wondered why we were making such sweeping changes in town government at this town meeting and John Weingold replied, "When else would we do it?" There was some verbal conflict between Jon Sylbert and Steve Weisz, who were shouting at each other simultaneously and Mark Makuc had to intervene loudly to regain order. Finally, there was a motion to call the question which was unanimously passed. A vote was taken on the amendments to the article, which had been so revised it was barely recognizable. This passed and then Article 2 was voted on and passed with a vote of 63-25. So instead of establishing a town charter, the town voted to establish a committee to investigate and advise the select board whether a town charter would be appropriate for Monterey. The article includes ways for townspeople to be informed and involved throughout the process.

Article 3-Select Board Chair powers, Article 4-Special Town Meetings

Having spent over an hour on the first item of business, the prospects for getting home in time for lunch seemed dim. However, the group pushed on to deal with Article 3, which concerned the select board chair having unilateral power. Steve Weisz, as current chair of the select board, started the discussion by saying, "I have no idea why this was written. I don't have unilateral power," explaining that the open meeting laws prevent this from happening. He went on to say that his favorite line in the article was the one that prohibited the chair from having communication with the town administrator, or any members of any other committee or employees, without the prior approval of the entire select board. Weisz commented that the whole point of the job was to communicate with one another. Jon Sylbert made a motion to table the question which was unanimously passed by voice vote and we moved on to Article 4 which had to do with special town meetings. Jon Sylbert said that while this issue could be addressed as part of the possible town charter, its purpose was to avoid spending money on expensive items in the middle of the winter, when many people cannot attend a meeting. Steve Weisz replied that sometimes unforeseen items come up that need to be dealt with promptly and that there was no attempt to sneak something by the voters. John Weingold said that some big ticket items have been hidden in special town meetings to avoid having them voted on at the annual meeting. Shawn Tryon, Director of Operations, perhaps feeling that this was directed at his department, countered that due to the uncertainty around Covid-19, two truck purchases were put off from the previous annual meeting. They were voted on at the special town meeting last fall once we knew the impact on town revenues from the pandemic, not to hide them from the budget. At that point a motion was made to table the article and this was passed.

Article 5-Bylaw Enforcement

With still a long way to go on the twenty articles, Article 5 was discussed. This proposed preventing the select board from selectively choosing which bylaws it would or would not follow. Jon Sylbert opened the discussion by saying that some of the laws on the books are either illegal or unenforceable, but John Weingold replied that he did not know of any organization that could follow some rules but not others. Steve Weisz then provided examples of decades old laws regarding the establishment of data centers and highway commissions which have been effectively ignored. He said, "There is probably a bylaw about where to park your horse." Susan Cooper took this even further, adding a moment of levity by citing the old Massachusetts blue

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Annual Town Meeting, cont.

laws about sexual intercourse with your spouse. She added,"Probably everyone here has violated them." With this, Karen Shreefter made a motion to table the article and this was unanimously passed.

Article 6-Employment Contracts

Finally, things started to move along. Article 6, about town employment contracts was tabled with a 61-3 vote; and **Articles 7 and 8 (Contracts and Record Keeping)** Mark Makuc pronounced as having "died for lack of a motion." Once an article has been read, there must be a motion to discuss it, as well as a second, or it is passed over. Not even the author or any of the signers of the petitions motioned to discuss.

Article 9-Public Documents

That took us to Article 9, the subject of which was having public records available for anyone to view on the town website. While Jeffrey Zimmerman said that all documents can be easily scanned onto the website, Janet Maximon noted that many people in town still do not have access to cell service or the internet. Steve Moore made the point, "It is one thing to put things on the internet and another thing to find them," and described the difficulty in actually finding documents on the town website. Further discussion ensued about making documents more accessible to disabled persons. Susan Cooper, a longtime member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, brought up the difficulty of scanning large documents such as blueprints which can be twenty to fifty pages attached to applications, and commented that she didn't want to be at risk for not complying with the bylaw because of that problem. New select board member Justin Makuc said it was worth the difficulty involved to provide everyone with the transparency they deserve. Jonathan Levin made the point that a bylaw is not the way to address this issue and suggested amending the article to read that the select board will create a policy regarding public records, procurement contracts, and warrants. John Weingold argued that this was not sufficient as the select board can ignore all sorts of policies, especially as new select boards come into office. A vote was taken on the amendment and passed with a 37-30 vote, and the amended article passed with a 54-14 vote.

Maureen Banner

Article 10-Bylaw Review Comm.

Article 10, concerning the creation of a bylaw review committee, was another one that took a lot of twists and turns. Both Justin Makuc and Steve Weisz noted that previous attempts to entice volunteers for such a committee had failed. Again the discussion got bogged down in the wording of the article, particularly with regard to whether or not elected and appointed town officials could be part of the committee, the length of their terms of office, and whether the committee members should be elected or appointed.There were several proposals for amendments but finally Jon Sylbert was able to pull the threads together to come up with a version that said there would be the formation of a bylaw review committee consisting of five members. They would initially be appointed by the select board for one year and at the end of the year, the seats would be filled by election of any registered town voters, with staggered terms of three years. The amendment was passed unanimously as was Article 10.

Article 11-Town Administrator Job Description

Article 11 died for lack of a motion.

Articles 12 and 13-Committee Stipends

The sensitive issue of payment for committee members was tackled in Article 12, and was directed toward the conservation committee which has been short staffed for some time. Karen Shreefter, whose husband Chris Blair was on the committee for twenty-five years, said no amount of money could compensate for the work that is required and was in favor of the proposal. Tom Ryan also supported the idea but suggested that perhaps members could choose to defer their salary and let that money go to the conservation agent. Town

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Counsel Jeramia Pollard nixed this idea, saying that voted money cannot be designated for someone else. Steve Weisz felt that the work of all town committee and board members is valuable and suggested a small stipend of $300 for all volunteers. Justin Makuc pointed out that inconsistencies already exist as the select board, and members of the board of health and board of assessors do get paid a small salary. Changes in wording were suggested, as was a stipend amount of $300 instead of the $2000 originally stated in the article. It was suggested that any stipend could be added as a line item to the budget by the finance committee and select board, some of whose members were present, and the town could vote on this as part of the budget next year.

The question was called and the amendment for $300 stipends failed, as did article 12 with a vote of 16–31. This did not bode well for Article 13 which called for a stipend of $3,000 for finance committee members. This article also failed by voice vote following minimal discussion.

Article 14–Expanding the Select Bd.

At this point, Peter Murkett voiced the concern that many people may have had. The pavilion had been slowly depleted of voters who either had other places to be or were just numbed by the tedium of the discussions. Murkett said he was not comfortable making policies with a dwindling number of people in a meeting that had already gone on for three hours. Susan Cooper echoed this sentiment. Although Article 14 was read, there was a motion to call the question, which passed with a vote of 41-3. When the voice vote was taken on Article 14, it failed. Perhaps sensing a lack of enthusiasm from the remaining voters, Jon Sylbert made a motion to continue the meeting to another time and this passed with a vote of 21 –15. However, Janet Maximon made another motion to table the rest of the meeting, which required a vote to rescind the motion to reschedule to another time. This motion passed as did the motion to table all the remaining articles with a vote of 25–8. This meant that the meeting was basically over and after a motion to adjourn, it was. No doubt we will see some of the lost articles reappear at another town meeting, but for that day the voters were done.

—Laurie Shaw

Letters

A Plea for Involvement

I'd like to take a moment to talk about participatory democracy and the rare opportunity we have here in Monterey. I grew up in Manhattan. I didn't know my neighbors. My concept of a neighborhood involved what restaurants, shops and entertainments were nearby. Politics were about choosing the person with the best personality—after all no one expected that they would follow through on whatever platform they espoused. But mostly, politics were about being able to cleverly criticize every politician and judicial act as a sort of social one-upmanship. I remember listening to the adults at social gatherings criticizing every political act, occasionally holding forth on what should have been done. The one exception I can remember was collecting signatures for the Equal Rights Amendment to the USConstitution, you know, for women's rights (look it up), which didn't pass in enough states. I have lived in a number of other cities, including a significant number of years in Washington, D.C. where political criticism is a way of life, and neighborhoods are about housing and restaurant options.

But criticism is not really action. Under the right circumstances it can motivate us to work for change. But mostly it has become a strange sort of social glue that feeds the most negative of human emotions without accomplishing any sort of real change. We all know you can complain endlessly about the bad sound your car makes or the leak in the hose, but unless your complaining somehow convinces someone else to fix them, they will remain. I am just as guilty of this fault as the next person.

But maybe if we want change, we need to be the change. If we want those around us to treat us civilly, we need to treat them civilly. If we hear rumors, perhaps we could investigate before holding forth with our own criticism. Pick up the phone and call someone who can offer a different perspective, and listen. Really listen—with an open, thoughtful mind, always remembering the lessons from those childhood games of "telephone." We live in a time when the idea of "alternative facts" has become frighteningly real. Take responsibility for the accuracy of the words and ideas you transmit.

August "Monterey News" May Be Late

The August issue of the *Monterey News* might not be available until early in the second week of August. Hopefully all the early August events can be found in this issue.

If you want to know what is happening in a meeting in town (select board, finance committee, zoning board, etc.) go to the meeting! The select board has gone to dual platform, so you can tune in on your computer or your phone and listen to the meeting – it is *wayyyy* better than talk radio! And just like talk radio you can have your voice heard—about things happening in your own community. You can get first hand information that way, and if something interests you, you can find out more about it. There is almost always more to know.

Here in Monterey we have a remarkable opportunity to engage in actual participatory democracy. We have neighbors we can actually get to know. We have a town meeting that actually makes decisions about how the town runs. We can go to any meeting of a town committee, listen to what is happening, and even comment on the proceedings and have our voices heard directly. Better yet, we can serve our community, our neighbors, and ourselves by working on those committees. Doubtless it is a lot less work to be the Monday morning quarterback, sitting back and criticizing yesterday's performance than to be the one actually training daily, in all weather, to get bashed about on the field (win or lose). But I beg you to ask yourselves if all of the negative blather actually improves anything at all—including our own individual well-being.

There are many difficult but interesting problems to solve in our town and our lives. They require investigation and deliberation before action. We can spend our energy fighting with each other, or we can use our good minds and hearts to find solutions and make them happen—even if the solutions are compromises and imperfect! We are all imperfect. But let's try to be part of the solution.

—Susan Cooper

Small Towns and Stop Signs

As many of you may know, I am not from Monterey.

I came here from New York City. When I first arrived, I did not know anyone. Later, I was lucky enough to meet a few folks who were willing to talk to me and teach me about the history of our Town.

I spent the first few years observing and learning. When I had a question, I asked the town elders. I recognized that things were done differently in a small town and refrained from injecting my New York City perspective to the affairs of a rural community with a three-digit population. That is called *respect*.

One of the first things I did notice was the lack of *stop* signs. I have never lived in an area that didn't have *stop* signs on every corner of every street. This baffled me. Finally, I asked a town elder, "Why aren't there *stop* signs on every street? Aren't you afraid of accidents and lawsuits?" He looked at me and said, "People know that they should stop."

Now, here we are today. We have just sat through the longest Annual Town Meeting in Monterey history. The reason had to do with eighteen citizens petitions authored by select board member John F. Weingold, Esq., that comes from a perspective that says, "we don't have enough rules and regulations in this town."

For those of you who braved both meetings, I applaud you and I value your commitment to active democracy and Monterey. However, in my opinion, your time was wasted. Sure, there were kernels of good ideas in the sheaves of paper that we all had to get through. However, these possible rules and bylaws will only spawn a new series of rules and bylaws next year (twenty petitions? thirty? forty?). I predict that then there will be the counter bylaws and rules that will appear because the previous ones prove to be too restrictive followed by complaints and lawsuits. These inevitable actions will be made to enforce regulations that seemed easy to do, but in reality don't mesh with such a small town.

Monterey's Non-profits

And what about enforcement? I have been informed that there is an individual in this town who is taking it upon himself to investigate the filings of a few, select, non-profit groups including the Monterey Fire Company, *Monterey News*, Gould Farm, and the Friends of Wilson McLaughlin (aka Community Center organizers). Can you imagine that? There is someone whose hobby it is to try and catch (and report?) volunteer groups for possible simple lapses in paperwork.

Is this what Monterey is all about?

I do not believe I am alone in saying "no," and I cannot believe our town is becoming so restrictive and vindictive. In Monterey, we help and support our neighbors. If there are problems, we find solutions. When we make mistakes (and we all make mistakes), we don't go running to the Attorney General or the Division of Revenue, like some child tattling to a teacher. We correct the problem and move on.

My friends, you have the ability to create the type of town you wish to live in.

Is it one where everything is a rule and regulation, punishable by self-appointed citizens and marathon style town meetings? Or is it one where "people know when to *stop*."

I purposely did not mention the name of the individual who is investigating a few (but not all) of the non-profits. If he is so proud of this endeavor, I would encourage him to write to all of you and explain why.

— Steven Weisz
Chair, Monterey Select Board

Editor's Note: It should be noted that all charitable non-profits must make annual filings which are public documents. Any individual can request these documents, all of which are also available online from the public agencies.

Editor's Note: In My View *provides individual select board members an opportunity to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

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What Follows

After all these years
in the loud silence of strangers
I return to that brief paradise
of wild-flowering hills
and flashing blue sea,
a dance of light on water,
to that shore left years ago
calling me home—
something like the call of eternity.

And remember Carmel's pine green hills,
the shore below where sunlight played
and frolicked freely on bare young bodies,
where sound and silence,
like the sea ebbing and flowing,
deepened into themselves.
A wonderful innocence of singing
that fell silent.
A landscape of home:
a boy belonging.
A place where nothing will change.

After all these years,
I return to yesterday's blaze of light,
that azure sky and turquoise sea,
that flowing constancy,
waves lapping over the years
washing over me wherever I may be.
To the clarity of that sunlit shore
that has not disappeared
and find that the harmony of days,
that dance of sun and sea
that lost paradise where everything was
continued its wondrous dance without me.

—Amos Neufeld

(an earlier version of this poem appeared in "Jewish Frontier," Jan/Feb 1988)

Alium —Bonsai Cox

Near Eden

After a childhood near Eden,
the Galilean hills
and the sweet sea humming
always near
for what time there was—
everything else becomes the
absence—
a time and place
that is never home.

—Amos Neufeld

(first appeared in "Jewish Spectator," Fall 1990)

Magenta Dahlias —Bonsai Cox

To a Graduate

What advice can I give?
I've never learned the way to live,
while the world still performs for you.
It's May and all your days dawn blue.
At noon you stretch to Heaven in
the slender sunbeam of your skin.

When I was young I was scared
and hid myself behind a beard.
I kissed no girls and wasn't kissed.
Those years have lifted like a mist
to leave me standing in the clear
with my wife and daughter near.

Clever heads will tell you how.
But was I dreaming then or now?
Dreams hand us on to other dreams
all our lives, or so it seems.
When I awake, I pray I'll keep
my silence -- children need their sleep.

—Don Barkin

A Brief Freedom in Youth

As a boy I gazed
at slopes the late light glazed
with its purple sigh,
Everything must die.

But one time in a swoon
I climbed up to the moon
behind a bobbing braid
and barely felt afraid.

When we reached the peak
she kissed me on the cheek
inside our cozy tent
and whispered that she meant

to "take some time to think."
And I went out to blink
at lofty lights that said,
It's better being dead.

Yet driving back all day
I badgered her to stay
to see the late light glaze
the rock-face of her gaze.

—Don Barkin

Memorial Day

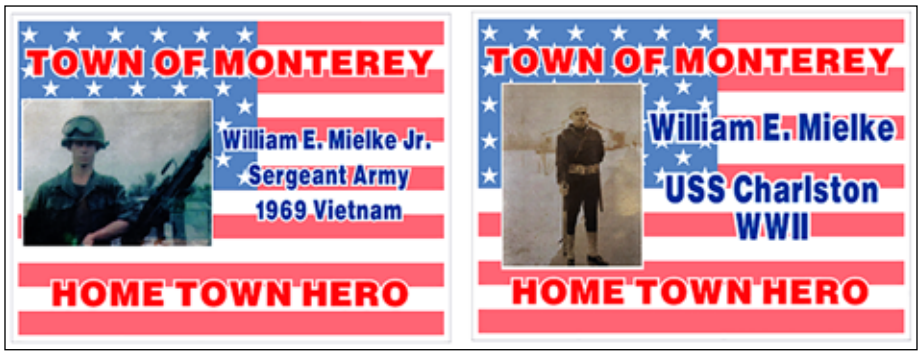
The Memorial Day ceremony was held at Veterans Memorial Park at the corner of Route 23 and Blue Hill Road. Liz Goodman gave an address and veterans were remembered.

On the front page is a matrix of images for individual Monterey veterans which were produced as small signs and put in place for the ceremony. Melissa Noe, town administrator, led the effort to get these made and placed in time. She would like to hear from anyone who can add to the list of veterans (below) so she can get additional signs made up as a regular feature of the ceremony. Melissa can be emailed at admin@montereyma.gov, or by calling town hall.

The following have signs in their honor: Dean P. Amidon, Dean P. Amidon, Jr., Phillip Amidon, Eugene Bounous, Donald S. Coburn, Arthur J. Funk, Jr., Robert E. Hoogs, William E. Mielke, William E. Mielke, Jr., Steven Pullen, Julio Rodriquez, Patricia Salomon, LeRoy E. Thorpe, Richard D. Tryon.

ॐ

Michael Johnson, Brett Road



William Mielke, Sr. (represented in the right-hand veteran sign above) was surrounded by three generations of the Mielke family attending the ceremony. `The family (below, left to right) is Pat Jennison, Jordan Mielke, William "Mike" Mielke, Jr., Zachary Mielke, Evan Mielke, "Mike" Mielke III, and Paula Lewis, Mike Jr.'s sister.

Philip Enoch played the clarinet at the ceremony.

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The Vanishing Monarch Butterfly

The monarch butterfly population everywhere has been declining for decades. The tragic loss of this colorful species, lovingly known as "mother nature's children," is due to destruction of its staple diet and habitat, the milkweed plant. Another cause of recent decline is the deadly impact of climate change. The absence of monarchs along their usual routes of travel is becoming a forgotten cherished seasonal event that was important to us. The entire life cycle that begins with laying a single egg on a milkweed plant, followed by weaving and spinning a caddis, that sheds into a caterpillar, from which a butterfly emerges, is illustrated in my drawing.

Monarchs go through a four-stage metamorphosis from eggs, to larvae, pupae, and adults. The adults in their northern breeding range, which emerge in Monterey in late summer, don't reproduce upon emerging as do the earlier generations. Their reproductive organs remain immature in a state called "reproductive diapause." Rather, they gather nectar to help them with the long flight to their wintering grounds. The southernly migrating generation has an enormous task to fly from two to three thousand miles to reach the same destination forest every year in Mexico and then overwinter until they reach sexual maturity.

There is a universal instinct to follow the leaders in a group (called a "kaleidoscope of monarchs"—see Janet Jensen's article, "An Astonishment of Daffodils," in the May issue), for safety in numbers. They also roost in clusters for warmth from the coming cold temperatures pushing them south in the fall. Finally, the eastern population returns back to the same branches of the oyamel fir forests, attracting thousands of tourists in Mexico to witness this remarkable seasonal spectacle. This congregation in the forest is referred to as a butterfly colony of migration.

In the spring, the females that overwintered in the south (for monarchs from eastern US, this is in Mexico; for monarchs west of the Rocky Mountains, they overwinter in southern California) will begin the migration north, laying as many as three hundred eggs one by one on different milkweed plants, as they head north into northern Mexico and southern US. It takes three generations of monarchs flying north (from Mexico to the Northeast), laying eggs for a new generation as they go, to reach Monterey.

Science is still trying to discover what directional aids are used and passed on to others. Research in 2014 concluded that the monarchs use the location of the sun, along with an internal clock for the time of day, to keep their migration direction. It has also been shown that they react to the earth's magnetic field, which is helpful in overcast skies.

The North American population of monarchs has somehow declined by 90% over the last twenty years. Adult monarchs feed on the nectar of many types of flowers, but they lay eggs only where milkweeds are found. Milkweed is an essential host plant for larvae (caterpillars) to develop into adults. Several national environmental conservation organizations are working to turn this decline around, including the Environmental Defense Fund (go to edf.org, and search "Monarch butterfly"), as well as National Wildlife Federation (go to nwf.org/Butterfly-Heroes). In addition, it seems to me that planting a butterfly garden by townships and communities, as well as at private homes, would help reverse the present extinction trend locally. Then the colorful living spirit of the natural world might soon reappear, traveling right through our own backyards, increasing our own awareness and satisfaction.

—George B. Emmons

Blue Upon Blue: The Indigo-bird

"Oh, I have never seen a bluebird up so close!" Our old family friend and his partner were the first guests here for a meal since before Covid. They had made a day trip from urban settings south of us.

We have a bird feeder right outside the kitchen window and there at lunchtime was the blue bird, or more specifically, a blue bird. Some writers use upper case-letters for the common name of a particular species. I used to, and am still on the fence about this. You can only use so many caps per paragraph before weariness sets in for most readers. Annoyance, even.

In speech the difference between a practical adjective and a specific name gets even more exciting. When is a blue bird not an Eastern Bluebird? Sometimes, it is! But this time the bird was what Henry Thoreau called an ""indigo-bird." I am not enough of a Thoreau scholar to know who chose the lower-case for the species name. Was it the writer, in 1851, or some more recent editor? It does not matter, as long as we know what we mean and can get this across.

"No, it is not a bluebird," we told our visitor, even though it plainly was. Then we explained that it was, and yet it was not. So the conversation went, with more wit than birdlore. Meanwhile, that indigo bunting stayed and stayed, wolfing down birdseed. He was unperturbed by other birds, most bigger than he was. He comes every day, any time, and the jays, woodpeckers, and mourning doves work around him. He is always the only indigo bunting on the scene.

This bunting is truly all blue, even the bill, which is darker on the upper mandible, paler on the lower. The eggs are blue, though sometimes so pale as to be described as "bluish-white." There are three or four eggs in a clutch, and the nest is built low in bushes or shrubbery, though sometimes as high up as ten feet in an old orchard tree.

These buntings migrate here for summer breeding, but spend winters much farther south. They often fly at night, and are thought to navigate by the stars. Somehow, using planetariums and caged birds, folks have experimented to confuse the birds by altering star patterns. Certain patterns make the caged birds want to fly. They get very restless. But these birds can find their way on overcast nights, so the theories have expanded to include other things like landmarks and the earth's electromagnetic field. Theories even include the likelihood of mistakes which are later corrected.

Indigo buntings weigh about half an ounce and they eat all sorts of insects when they live in these parts in the summer: caterpillars, small beetles, grasshoppers. In the south in winter, they eat a variety of seeds. At our house, they are fine with birdseed in summer.

The male indigo-bird is the indigo one. The female is subtle, brown with a paler breast and sometimes some streaks. It is she who selects the nest site, builds the nest, incubates, and feeds the youngsters. It is also she who selects the male, and she is looking for someone with a promising territory, one which will support her and her young. In other words, a place with plenty of greenery, because she needs food that is rich in protein, which is to say insects. Insects can be found where there are lots of leaves and flowers. The male and female buntings are working partners, specialists on a team. She needs the kind of food that makes for great strong viable eggs and she is also looking for a good grocery store nearby with a supply to nourish those growing chicks. In the winter, down south, with pregnancy and childrearing not her job any more, she can get by very well on seeds.

The male can eat seeds any time of year, as long as he has the strength to migrate, and to defend his territory once he gets north. He has to be visible (so blue!) and audible. The *Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Birds*, not given to excited prose, says this. "Voice: Song, lively high and strident, with well-measured phrases at different pitches: notes usually paired: sweet-sweet, chew-chew, etc. Note, a sharp thin spit."

Indigo buntings are polygynous, which means one male mates with more than one female, and each female only mates with one male. The female chooses the male, who does not help with raising the young and sometimes has other mates. But this male is a rich guy: he has an excellent territory. It is so good, it can support more than one family. His job is to find this place and then defend and advertise it with song. Edward Howe Forbush, State Ornithologist for Massachusetts, wrote:

"The male seems to delight in singing during the hottest part of the summer day, when other birds are resting in the shade. He will sing his way from the bottom of a tree to the top, going up branch by branch until he has reached the topmost spire, and there, fully exposed to the blazing sun, he will sing and sing and sing." (*Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States*, 1929)

The male indigo bunting must be wonderfully blue. He must find a territory that attracts females and feeds families. He must also sing and sing and sing. We all have our work in the world.

—Bonner McAllester

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Splash for Sloan 80

Every time Paul has gone to Memorial Sloan Kettering these past eleven years, in addition to his treatments, his doctors told him to keep swimming. Now, as he's rounding the lap lane toward his eightieth birthday in October, Paul is initiating "Splash for Sloan 80" to raise donations for Prostate Cancer Research here at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

Help celebrate his eight decades of swimming the way Paul chooses to enjoy becoming an octogenarian. Contact us to donate to the MSK Prostate Cancer Research as Paul swims eighty pool laps in the lake for "Splash for Sloan 80" drive. We can email you the link to donate directly if you wish.

Clearly, as the phrase goes, Paul has cancer, but cancer doesn't have him!

With loving gratitude,

— Sue and Paul Epstein
sueepstein7@gmail.com
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Community Health Van
Second Vaccination Visit

The last hurrah for vaccinations in Monterey this summer was June 17 with the CHP "Big Orange Bus" hosted by the Monterey Community Center. The vaccine options were Moderna, Pfizer, or Johnson & Johnson. The folks getting vaccinated on this sunny day hailed from Monterey, Sandisfield, Otis, Great Barrington, and Egremont. Depending on their age, some were eligible to register for a possible prize of a huge lottery ticket win, college tuition, or a season pass to Six Flags Park.

Special thank you to incentive donors: Laurie Shaw, Lin Saberski, and Michael and Emily Johnson.

Some were very grateful to receive gift certificates, others said they were just happy to have finally gotten their vaccine so close to home. A few savvy folks knew they could also get car seat safety checks at the van.

If anyone is still interested in getting vaccinated, and not sure where to go, you can call (413) 429-4568 or (413) 429-2946. You can also visit getvaccinatedberkshires.org. Unlike the difficulties with getting vaccination appointments earlier this year, now the website shows a calendar for walk-in opportunities (no appointments) throughout Berkshire County, including many in Great Barrington. The schedule for the CHP van is listed on the website as well.

— Mary Makuc
For the Monterey Vaccination group

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Here's a Thought...
Rainbow

It's just a combination of the moisture in the air, the angle of the sun, and where we stand when we peer at the sky. But, put all those facts together and a rainbow is always greater than the sum of its parts. Maybe it's some visceral recall of the rainbow described in the Noah's Ark story. Although the story got twisted later, what with the alcohol and the condemnation of Ham for an apparent act of compassion, the rainbow was a promise. It was a declaration to all who were still standing to see it.

Its message may have included an affirmation and an invitation: "You're a survivor. Despite where you've been and what you've seen, let this beautiful surprise speak to you of hope."

Okay, take a moment and look back up at the rainbow photo I took last month. If it's the black and white photo in the paper edition of the *News*, let it remind you of a rainbow you've seen before. Ready? Set? Okay, let's go. Let's you and I risk sharing that sense of hope, the revitalizing lift that seeing a rainbow generates.

I'm not talking about denial; hope and grief aren't mutually exclusive. We've all changed, and been changed. A friend shared with me last month about the family members and friends she's lost to Covid, not just throughout 2020 but even into last month. We've all lost, and in some ways,

We were surprised with a near-sunset rainbow at Stevens Lake as the calendar neared solstice last month.

been lost. That's true of our country, too. No matter where we each stand politically, we're losing each other, and in doing that, we're losing ourselves. And we need each other, even when we're poles apart. Democracy's a vessel almost as fragile as it is precious. And it isn't chosen often because it's just plain hard, but we made a visionary choice in the eighteenth century. We decided to go for it, and we did.

This July 4 marks the 245th anniversary of the signing of our Declaration of Independence. When in the course of human events we've become so alienated, what does it serve to cling to a convenient way of thinking that erases any healthy impulse to look deeper than the color of a t-shirt? The Star Spangled Banner needs both the red and the blue to exist at all.

That flag carries an unspoken message: Don't tread on each other. After all, the red, white, and blue became a badge of union. Individual colonies' banners depicting a rattlesnake over the words "Don't tread on me" would have gotten nowhere flying solo.

The arrogance of "My Way or the Highway" is an attitude we defeated at Yorktown in 1781 when our independence was actually born, not just announced. We defeated that attitude in King George and the redcoat army. How about releasing arrogance from ourselves? Not each other. Ourselves.

The opposite of arrogance isn't humiliation. It's humility. That's the powerful freedom of filling your authentic place in the world, nothing greater, and nothing less, than that.

Knowing your place doesn't mean, "Tread on me," or, on the other side of the equation, "Get out of my way." It's knowing that you, like a rainbow, like the United States, are greater than the sum of your parts. Knowing that none of us is here by accident. Knowing that, too often, we don't know what we're doing,

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most especially when we're completely sure we're right. As Peter, Paul, and Mary sang, there's no easy walk to freedom, for the country, or for ourselves.

Releasing our arrogance is like peeling an onion: work that should seem simple, but isn't. The power of humility and the power of democracy are both like that. They require commitment, surprisingly hard work, deep listening to both others and ourselves, and a good dose of self-compassion. There's falling down, getting up, and beginning again, too. But it's possible.

I recently heard of a man who was on a humanitarian mission to Yemen and had an encounter with a member of ISIS. He was in a hospital where injured children were being cared for and saw a child wearing a t-shirt with the word UNICEF written on it, along with the name of Barcelona's soccer team. He got the child's attention, pointed to the child's shirt and then his own, which also said UNICEF. They grinned at each other, then the man, who follows soccer, fist pumped while he called out the name of that soccer team. The armed guard in the room, a member of ISIS, strode over, grinned, fist-pumped and called out the name of Madrid's soccer team. Then all three sports fans fist-pumped together over their shared passion for sports.

One man looked carefully at a t-shirt, reached out, made a connection and, when his apparent enemy came near them both, listened instead of reacting out of fear. Yeah, it's harder than peeling an onion, and, no it doesn't always work out that well. It's a worthy effort, though, far greater than the sum of its parts. It's an ark through rough waters. Let's give it a try.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Letters

Dear Stephen,

I was happy to find myself sitting directly behind you at this morning's (June 12) second session of Monterey's 2021 Annual Town Meeting because it gave me a chance to introduce myself to you after all these years of enjoying this wonderful newspaper.

I read a wide variety of daily newspapers and weekly or monthly magazines and journals, e.g., *The New Yorker*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Berkshire Eagle*, *The Smithsonian*, my (award-winning) college alumni magazine, etc.

The *Monterey News* stands tall in that company, both as to coverage of local events, relevance, insights, and quality of writing. In light of the fact that your correspondents are volunteers and mostly non-professionals, that is an extraordinary record of achievement.

I salute you and your team!

And I salute you, in particular, because I am certain that a great newspaper cannot exist year after year without a great editor.

Particularly with our general store out of business for the foreseeable future, there is simply no better way for any of us—permanent year-round residents like me and weekenders alike—to stay current with what's happening in and about Monterey. The *News* is essential.

Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

—Stacy L. Wallach

Our Lady of the Hills

The Roman Catholic church in Monterey, Our Lady of the Hills, will be open for Mass beginning Saturday, July 3. The eucharistic celebration begins at 5:45 p.m. each Saturday evening through the end of August.

Yes, this is the tiny chapel with the stained glass angel, not far from the town beach, at 70 Beartown Mountain Road. Everyone is most welcome. If you would like to be a lector, altar server, or help with the music, please arrive ten minutes early and speak with the celebrant.

—Marya Makuc

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Invasion of the Gypsy Moths

One evening early last month, I noticed Bradley flailing away at the new hemlock trees outside our cottage on Monument Valley Road. "They're eating them," he said. "They're eating our peach tree and the blueberries too."

By that time, he was trying to dislodge them by spraying with forceful jets of water. I privately wondered if he wasn't being overly reactive.

But the next morning I did my own inspection. And there they were: dozens of furry black and brown creepy crawly things, quite thin, maybe an inch and a half long, sort of camouflaged.

Initially, thinking they could be the larval stage of some beautiful butterfly, I started collecting them in a jar, with a vague idea of relocating them. But after I came to grips with their sheer numbers and realized how much they were eating, I realized it was them or our hemlocks. I started flinging them off the trees and squishing them without remorse. I sprayed them with the cedar oil I use against ticks and forced them off the branches with the hose.

It took me several days, talking to several people before learning from the UMass Extension that they were gypsy moths, a pest that destroyed 100,000 acres of forest in Massachusetts in 2016. By the time I had identified them, the critters had become way larger and more numerous. "Look at this," Bradley said, pointing to the young oak tree in the corner of our lot. Almost every leaf on the tree had been significantly eaten away. In many cases, just the outlines were left, leaving a kind of filigree, a ghost of the former tree.

Ed Salsitz's photo of a gypsy moth caterpillar. They rapidly go through several instars (stages in larval growth).

The canopy on a hillside near Butternut ski area. Fortunately, healthy trees will refoliate pretty quickly.

I started connecting the dots. For several weeks I had noticed what sounded like a light rain in the evenings coming from the oak forest behind our cottage. "What is that?" I asked Bradley. "Caterpillars?" he shrugged. I imagined a bumper crop of them dropping from the trees, possibly providing food to the birds in the forest. But, as I learned from the UMass website, it was not caterpillars dropping. It was caterpillar droppings, a veritable splats storm of them. The oak leaves were being recycled through the digestive track of a creature that was pretty much an eating machine on legs, molting regularly to accommodate its rapidly increasing girth.

About a week after we first noticed them, we looked up toward the ridge north of Monument Valley Road. We saw the sun setting where it had been blocked by the full leaf canopy. It was as if time had gone into reverse and taken us back to late winter. On the longest day of the year, we strolled up the ridge. It was eerie to see the bare trees against the late summer sun, towering above the unusually vibrant green growth of what would be understory, under normal circumstances. The normal sounds of the forest were silent.

The onslaught started to feel like a horror film. One evening I parked under the now mostly defoliated maple tree. The next morning the windshield was covered with disgusting dark brown splats. A trip through the car wash, deluxe cycle, failed to remove the frass. And caterpillars were literally climbing the walls of our cottage. I couldn't figure out why I was suddenly getting what seemed to be poison ivy all

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over my body for the first time in years. And then I discovered that the tiny hairs from the caterpillars can create an itchy rash that resembles poison ivy.

We focused on protecting our young hemlocks and fruit trees. The organic sprays that had been recommended only worked on the young larvae, so Bradley tried raking and picking them off the trees. Apparently, the caterpillars had started in on the hemlock only after they had plowed through the nearby oaks, their preferred host. But the voracious pests are known to eat more than three hundred species of trees and shrubs. Ash, locust, dogwood, sycamore, balsam fir, mountain laurel, and rhododendron are less susceptible, according to Mass Audubon.

"We had expected some gypsy moth activity in the Berkshires this year, but the defoliation is a little more severe than what we had anticipated," Nicole Keheler, with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), told me in an email. "Since this is the first year in a while with defoliation or any other major stressors, we can expect nearly all the hardwoods to re-leaf by the end of July," she added. "However, because gypsy moth populations can be affected by so many environmental factors, it is challenging to predict what to expect next year."

The infestations tend to remain in pockets, due to their mode of dispersal. The female moths don't fly. Once hatched from shiny egg masses, the tiny, hairy caterpillars spin down from trees on long silken threads. Then they hang in the air waiting for a strong wind to carry them to a new location.

Tom Ryan, the local DCR forester, said he hadn't seen much damage in Monterey. But Butternut Mountain is largely defoliated and the caterpillars have gotten as far as Beartown, where I saw lots of chewed up leaves, but not as much defoliation as we had a little farther west.

The good news is that the caterpillars have stopped binging and are starting to pupate, and most of the healthy deciduous trees will refoliate, according to the experts. By the end of July, the canopy should be restored to its former fullness, I was told. But for trees whose health is already compromised—I'm thinking of the old maple in our front yard—the gypsy caterpillars could be deadly. Especially if the infestation is followed by drought. Or by another onslaught next year, which is quite possible, depending on a number of factors. A wet spring would be good for the fungus that ordinarily holds them in check. But given recent extremes in weather, it's hard to know what the future will bring.

HABIT
Geoffrey Young: selections of drawings and paintings from 1970 until Easter, 2021
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Knox Gallery is supported by Friends of the Monterey Library
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The sun shining through the canopy does have its bright side. Just as fires can sometimes improve forest health, the openings can potentially create a healthier and more diverse stand of trees. And the soil got a significant dose of fertilizer. Still, there is cause for concern about the infestation, which stretches across the eastern United States, from North Carolina to Maine, and as far west as Missouri. New York State was hit hard this year. DCR will be surveying the local forests in fall, to figure out what we can expect next spring. My advice is to stay alert: by the time you start noticing them, they are virtually unstoppable.

—Janet Jensen

Monterey's Peter Poirier and his band will be performing at this year's steak roast on July 31. See page 7 for more information about the steak roast, and go to monterey-fire.org for tickets.

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Wildlife Report Late May-June
Bears to Daddy Long-Legses

Early in June, Carole Clarin wrote about a bear in her backyard on Sylvan Road. Meanwhile, the bear family just south of here is still on the scene, though now it is the mama and her yearling cub, and sometimes the mama and the papa. The report is that mama is urging the youngster to go off on its own now, as the mama and papa have adult plans (page 28). We have some photographs of these bears.

Here on East Hupi Road our young dog keeps us loudly posted regarding bear visits, and Julie Shapiro just up the road saw a mother with two cubs near the end of June. She sent in a photograph of the mama just leaving the backyard (below).

Last month we had a little spotted fawn sighting from Cait Ryan, and this month another one. Paul and Sue Epstein found a perfect youngster curled up in their flower garden and sent a photograph (above at right). The fawn stayed still.

Liz Sanchez of Griswold Road saw a fox trotting past carrying a small mammal, probably lunch for some pups. She took a photograph from the screen porch (below). This fox looks like she is shedding her warm coat, like the rest of us these days. Early in June, Steve Moore watched a bobcat walk past Wendy Jensen's studio, "moseying along" out the driveway towards New Marlborough Road.

Sue and Paul Epstein sent a photograph of a young porcupine (above at right) visiting their deck, and we have seen several right near our place on East Hupi Road. Late one night I thought I heard one scrabbling up the big hemlock by our path as I walked by, but this turned out to be a visiting housecat, not ready to get acquainted, and gone the next morning.

In the world of birds, there is plenty to report. The barred owls are present and vocal. Bonsai Cox and Mary Kate Jordan had one visiting and took a handsome photograph (below). Steve Moore reports that for about ten days he and Wendy Jensen listened to "two or three barred owls making a real ruckus" nearby when they were sleeping out on their screen porch.

Ed Salsitz came upon a gathering of black vultures (below) by the side of the road in Canaan, Connecticut. These are a different species from our familiar turkey

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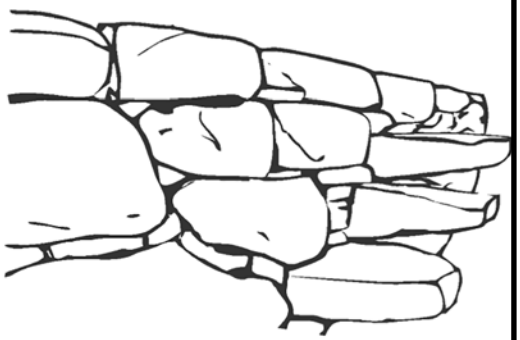

vultures. They have black skin on their bare heads and necks, instead of the red skin we see on the turkey vultures. Mostly, black vultures do not get this far north (Monterey), but they are expanding their range northwards. They are also smaller than the turkey vultures.

Speaking of turkey vultures, Anna Poirier sent an account of a friendly raven, trying to socialize with a turkey vulture. The vulture was perched on a dead branch on a dead tree by the intersection of Curtis Road and Gould Road, where vultures often congregate.

The raven landed on the same branch as the turkey vulture, though there were empty branches nearby and available.

"The raven vocalized for several minutes, often while turned to face the vulture. The sounds were a blend of gurgling, rattling and clicking. Sometimes he'd scoot a little closer to the large bird. While he talked, the vulture preened. After a little while the raven was displaced by another vulture and flew away to a nearby tree.

"But he kept coming back. At one point the raven flew past a vulture-filled tree to land in one with a single vulture in it. Was it the same vulture as before? I don't know. There was also a mini-scuffle between the raven and one of the vultures between tree-switching. It was intriguing watching this vocal bird interact with the vulture crew. Basically, 'Yeah, so I'm hanging out with you guys now.'

Anna also reports on bobolinks she has seen along Curtis Road, and a male indigo bunting. (See page 20 for more about the buntings.)

Steve Moore wrote about a pair of ravens in his neighborhood that are "noisy and making all kinds of loud squawks and yellings and noises that sound like moments before a bar fight is about to break out." They shriek at each other and sound like "a baby crying, but at a higher octave."

At the Coburns' house on Beartown Mountain Road, a sparrow and two warblers were "boldly pecking at the edges of our screens" and Ellen guesses they were finding insects there.

Colta Ives sent in a photograph of young phoebes in the garden shed, perched on the edge of their nest which was built on

a pole saw. There were three youngsters, then later a fourth emerged, and by the end of the day, all had "fledged," or left the nest (above).

Ed Salsitz sent a photograph of a good-looking gypsy moth caterpillar, with its pairs of spots along the back, blue ones forward and red ones aft. This is a big year for these caterpillars, in some places, and we certainly have seen this in other years. Though it is alarming to see the oaks standing leafless in June, particularly along the ridge tops, they will leaf out fully again later in the summer. They have evolved to survive mobs of caterpillars now and then. (Ed's photo, along with more about gypsy moths, on page 24.)

Maureen Banner took a close-up (above right) of another striking insect neighbor, an asparagus beetle with a bold black cross on its white elytra (wing covers, on the back). She also came upon a

wolf spider (below) carrying its big white egg sac away to someplace safe, far from gardeners who persist in weeding and digging. >

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Chris Goldfinger found a red daddy long-legs, also known as a "harvest man" and sent a photograph (above). With their eight long legs, they look like spiders, but they are a separate group, another sort of arachnid. Spiders have a distinct head and body, two parts with a waist between them. Daddy long-legs have just one body part, with head, thorax, and abdomen fused together. They do not spin webs.

Bonsai Cox found a painted turtle looking for a place to lay eggs before returning to the pond. She sent a photograph in mid-June (above right).

Meanwhile, in the plant world, we have had a glorious mountain laurel blooming season, and Mary Makuc took a photograph of a perfect display (far right). Also the beaked hazelnuts have had a productive season so far, with many nuts forming. Thanks to Mary Kate Jordan for a

good closeup photograph of these (above). These are our wild, native filberts.

Thank you for sending your sightings and enthusiasm for this remarkable season.

— Bonner McAllester
(413) 528-9385, bonnermca@gmail.com

Contributions for June 2021

Thanks to these folks for helping us along this year. Every bit helps!

Judy Oplinger
Helen & Donald Kahaner
Louise Henry
Bob & Linda Hebert
David & Donna Brown
Nancy Torrico
Rosalind & Richard Kaufman
Jerry Green
Michael Wilcox
Elaine & Jim Mazza
Stella Bodnar
Tim Lovett
Angelina Dubourg
Fred & Shelley Emmel
Al & Nancy Banach
Eileen Clawson
Bill Michaud
Gwynne O'Connell

The male black bear (foreground) and female (in the woods) head off in different directions.

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Peace Dividends

Remember the Cold War? I do. It was scary. I was afraid. I recall joining fellow students upon being told to duck under our desks, or head to the basement. Communism challenged us; Russia threatened us. Newspapers reported that the Soviet Union posed a serious military menace. Didn't they have more offensive hardware? The US Navy was number one, but consider their tanks, artillery, and military forces arrayed against us. Russian spies, we learned, performed dastardly deeds and "Com symps" (communist sympathizers) in this country insisted their system was superior to our decaying capitalism. Could those arguing we might be "better dead than red" have a point? And even if neither side deliberately launched an attack, a nuclear accident could make life on earth uninhabitable (for those who survived).

Well, here we go again. This time it is China positioned at the opposite end of the geopolitical see-saw. No paper tiger here. Their population dwarfs our numbers. Their economic output is poised to outstrip ours, while their military poses a serious and growing threat. Technologically, they are our equals (we both have real estate on Mars), and what they themselves don't devise, they appropriate or steal from us. China has informed the world that their system is more robust and dynamic than ours and that American weaknesses and political polarization render us no longer fit for world leadership, which they seem eager to assume (viz: One Belt, One Road).

Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev once warned America, "We will bury you!" That prediction happily landed with a thud. Will we also, in the end, prevail over China? They've got problems galore (a growing shortage of workers would you believe?). And they are breathing air far more polluted than ours; furthermore, authoritarians likely have a discard date.

But it just may be that this new "Cold War" clash succeeds in bringing Americans together. We all agree that it represents a serious challenge and ongoing threat. Republicans and Democrats have actually joined forces to pass a multi-billion dollar package aimed to counter China and to bolster America's technological capabilities. And our corporations, eager to peddle their products and services to hundreds of millions of increasingly prosperous Chinese, will certainly push hard to prevent a rupture in relations.

So what if we share the world with China? Surely it's big enough for the both of us. Better a partner than an adversary.

—Richard Skolnik

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Lake Garfield Update

Proposed Stormwater Treatment

Back in 2017, lake specialist Dr. Ken Wagner studied potential phosphorus pollutant loading throughout Lake Garfield. Phosphorus is an important nutrient for growth in aquatic plants such as the invasive Eurasian water milfoil, which is an impediment to boating and kayaking on the lake if left unchecked. The town, with input from the Lake Garfield Working Group and financial contributions from the Friends of Lake Garfield, has been controlling this invasive plant species in recent years by hiring scuba divers to remove it from the lake bottom with suction harvesting.

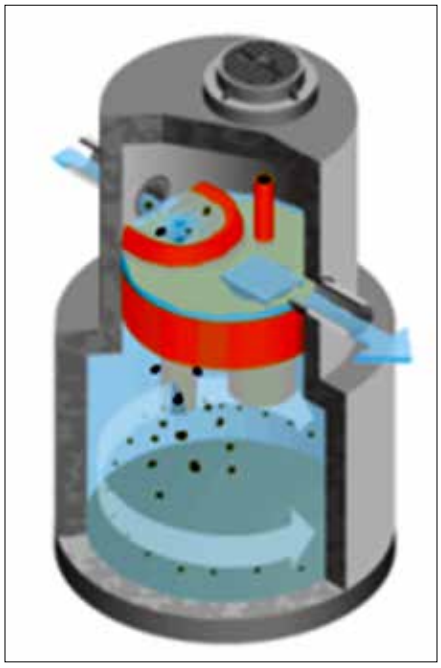
According to the various sampling results Dr. Wagner looked at, he posited that the highest pollutant loading comes from stormwater runoff in three sections along Lake Garfield's north shore which includes Hupi Road. A site visit with the Monterey Department of Public Works narrowed down these three areas to one site location based on space and the feasibility of installing structures to help treat stormwater. The site is a thousand-foot stretch of road starting at a seasonal stream just past Hupi Woods Circle to Elephant Rock Road, and treats stormwater pollution from Hupi Road, Mountain Laurel Way, and surrounding properties. The picture (above right) shows the area looking east down Hupi Road.

With funds obtained through the state from a Federal Clean Water Act Section 604b grant, the Town of Monterey hired the engineering firm Foresight Land Services to create conceptual designs for a stormwater treatment and drainage system which are now complete. Designs include a new drainage system of catch-basins, swales, and proprietary stormwater treatment system such as a hydrodynamic separator that will work in concert to improve road drainage and remove sediment, road salts, and road debris. (The image at right can give you an idea how the separator works.)

If you imagine the topography of that area, you'll realize that rain currently flows from the hills northeast of Hupi Road down toward the lake, over Hupi Road. To capture this water and redirect it, the designs propose stormwater improvements sometimes referred to as "best management practices

or BMPs" to be installed along both sides of Hupi Road. Some of the BMPs are also considered green infrastructure, utilizing plants and soil to filter, treat, and infiltrate stormwater in the process.

Here are the design details: Along the northeast side of Hupi Road, a vegetated swale—that is a linear depression along the road with plantings and soil substrate—will be installed to catch stormwater coming off the hills where the existing grass/gravel swale is located. Rocks within the new swale will slow the flow of water during peak storm conditions and allow for more water to seep into the ground. Oversized or "deep sump" catch basins would be installed along both sides of Hupi Road at driveway locations, and at Mountain Laurel Way. This design of catch basin allows heavier solids such as gravel, larger sediments, and undissolved road salts to settle to the bottom, for later collection and proper disposal. These catch basins would be connected by a closed drainage system that will pipe stormwater downhill and into a proprietary stormwater treatment structure such as a hydrodynamic separator (see drawing below left). Hydrodynamic separators like this one remove all remaining sediment that hasn't settled out in the deep sump catch basins as well as remove additional pollutants including oil, small debris, and other floatables. After exiting this BMP, stormwater will drain into a final vegetated swale or bio-garden (much like a rain garden), where there is one more opportunity to infiltrate into the ground. Excess water will drain into the seasonal stream that flows to Lake Garfield.



In effect, what the design calls for is a "train" of treatment and best management practices—structures that remove sediment, debris, oils, and other pollutants stormwater carries as it flows over the landscape around Hupi Road and Mountain Laurel Way. By removed sediment, or "total suspended solids" as we sometimes refer to them, the treatment train will in effect also remove attached phosphorus, the key pollutant impairing Lake Garfield. Moreover, improved drainage will decrease the need for sand and salting during the winter and reduce erosion and sediments from washing off the road, thereby reducing the town's need to maintain and repair the gravel road so often.

The designs here, along with the Lake Garfield Watershed-Based Plan, and estimated phosphorus load reductions, allow the Town of Monterey to apply for Clean Water Act Section 319 funding from Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, which will fund full engineering designs and installation, and work toward removing Lake Garfield from the Massachusetts List of Impaired Waters.

Stay tuned for more project updates.

—Courteny Morehouse,
Senior Planner, Berkshire Regional
Planning Commission

Town Seal by Edith Wilson

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Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

— Steven Weisz, Chair
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For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov.

Calendar

See page 5 for a full schedule of the **children's programs** at the library.

MCC- Monterey Community Center

Sundays: Monterey softball begins again. Batting practice at 10, games begin at 10:30. See page 6.

Mondays: "What's Happening," discussing local arts, 4 to 5 p.m., MCC. See page 3.

Tuesdays:

Chair yoga with Connie Wilson, 10 a.m., MCC.

Card games, 1 p.m., MCC.

Tuesdays from June 22 to July 13: Song writing with Robin O'Herin. See page 3.

Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 10 a.m., MCC tent. See page 6.

Fridays: Beginning July 9, bridge, 1 p.m., MCC. See page 6.

Monday, July 5: "What's Happening," Biodiversity Group shares their plans and garden tour information, 4-5 p.m., MCC tent.

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Thursday, July 8: Berkshire visiting nurse wellness check, 2-3 p.m. See page 6.

Saturday, July 10:

Bidwell history talk, 10 a.m., *Greatest Generation*s. See page 10.

Planning Monterey's 175th anniversary, 1:30 p.m., MCC. See page 11.

Sunday, July 11: Pops Peterson, 3 p.m., library. See page 3.

Monday, July 12: "What's Happening," Ann Gallo & Rachel Urquhart discuss their production, *Women of Tyringham*. 4-5 p.m., MCC tent.

Thursday, July 15:

Council on Aging open house, 10 a.m., MCC. See page 6.

Maureen Banner's *Nurturing Nature* show, Knox Gallery. See page 9.

Saturday, July 17:

Friends of Lake Garfield annual meeting, 9:30 a.m., firehouse pavilion.

Bidwell history talk, 10 a.m., *Colonial Prisons*. See page 10.

Native Plants in Monterey Tour, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. See page 8.

Bidwell House inside tours begin. Also demonstrations of local artisans, 1 to 4 p.m. See page 10.

Sunday, July 18: Celebration of life for Dale Duryea, 1 to 4 p.m. See page 11.

Thursday, July 22: Silk painting, 1 p.m., MCC tent. See page 3.

Saturday, July 24: Bidwell house Native American interpretive trail walk, 10 a.m. See page 10.

Sunday, July 25: Pittsfield Suns baseball game and picnic, 4:30 p.m. See page 6.

Tuesday, July 27: Genealogy workshop begins, 7 p.m., MCC on Zoom. See page 3.

Thursday, July 29: Tie dye, 1 p.m., MCC tent. See page 3.

Saturday, July 31:

Library book and plant sale, 9 a.m.-noon, library. See page 4.

Fire company steak roast, 4-7 p.m., firehouse pavilion. See page 7.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Rachel Jo Arnow, pgs. 18, 21;Maureen Banner, p. 9;
George Emmons, p. 19; Bonner McAllester, p. 20.;
Stephen Moore, p. 8

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